



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

### California State Office

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August 11, 2004

**In Reply Refer To:**  
6840 (CA930)P

EMS Transmission: 8/11/04  
Information Bulletin No. **CA-2004-053**

**To:** Field Managers, Bakersfield, Folsom, Hollister, and Ukiah

**From:** State Director

**Subject:** Proposed Critical Habitat for the California Tiger Salamander **DD: 10/07/04**

On August 10, 2004, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published a notice (*Federal Register* 69:48569-48649) proposing critical habitat for the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*). (See Attachment 1.) The proposed rule identifies 47 critical habitat units (involving a total of 382,666 acres) distributed among four Central California Tiger Salamander Regions: (a) Central Valley, (b) Southern San Joaquin, (c) East Bay, and (d) Central Coast. There is some overlap of proposed critical habitat with BLM administered land in the Central Coast Region.

The proposed rule solicits information on several topics, including the reasons why any areas should or should not be designated as critical habitat and the potential economic impacts such designation may have on affected interests, particularly small entities. Most of the critical habitat proposed for this species occurs on privately owned land. A search for "BLM" on the electronic file for the proposed rule revealed that the following Central Coast critical habitat units overlap with BLM administered land: Unit 2 (Elliott Hill), Unit 3 (Haystack Hill), and Unit 4 (Gloria Valley). These units are located in Monterey and San Benito Counties (see Maps 31, 32, and 33 on pages 48640-48644 of Attachment 1).

Please review the proposed rule, and associated maps, and advise CA-930 (Attn: Ed Lorentzen) if you have comments or suggestions regarding the proposed critical habitat boundaries, or any other aspects of the proposed rule. California-BLM comments on this proposal will be consolidated by CA-930 and submitted to FWS through the State Director. The deadline for submitting comments to FWS is October 12, 2004. Please provide us with your comments, if any, in electronic format by the close of business October 7, 2004.

Now that critical habitat has been proposed for this species, the conference requirements of Section 7(a)(4) of the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR 402.10 are applicable to any BLM actions likely to cause the destruction or adverse modification

of proposed critical habitat. Additionally, the guidance in Manual Section 6840.06B1 calls for BLM to confer with FWS "... on any action that is likely to adversely affect a proposed species or proposed critical habitat." Any outstanding requests for formal consultation with FWS on the California tiger salamander should be updated to include conference on critical habitat if the proposed action "may adversely affect" proposed critical habitat.

Questions regarding this proposed rule may be directed to Ed Lorentzen at (916) 978-4646.

**Signed**  
**James Wesley Abbott**  
**Acting State Director**

Authenticated  
Louise Tichy  
Records Management

**Attachment**

1 - Proposed Rule to Designate Critical Habitat for the California Tiger Salamander (80 pp.)

**Distribution**

CA-190 (Attn: Project Manager, Fort Ord)  
WO-230, MS 204 LS (Attn: Peggy Olwell)